

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube and when shortened to slide along the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient, the fastener further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops and wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

18-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube and when shortened to slide along the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

33. (Previously presented) A fastener in combination with a tube for securing said tube to a patient, said fastener comprising a tubular sleeve, the tubular sleeve being of variable length and configured when lengthened to grip the tube and when shortened to slide along the tube, wherein the tube has a lumen and can transport fluid to or from a patient, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve and wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

34-53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which the tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which the tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve and capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, ~~the fastener further comprising attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient,~~ wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops and wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

55-58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which the tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which the tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve and capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein an opening is capable of permitting a tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve and the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

60. (Currently amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which the tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which the tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve and capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

61. (Currently amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture

through which the tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which the tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve and capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.

62-68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently amended) A medical or surgical fastener for securing a tube to a patient, said medical or surgical fastener comprising a tubular sleeve of variable length having a first aperture through which the tube can pass at a first end of the sleeve and a second aperture through which the tube can pass at the second end of the sleeve and capable when lengthened of gripping a tube and when shortened of sliding along the tube, wherein the sleeve has a perforated or foraminous wall defining a plurality of openings and wherein the tubular sleeve further comprises attachment means for attaching the sleeve to a patient, wherein the tubular sleeve exerts a pressure distributed over an elongate portion of the tube when the sleeve is lengthened to grip the tube.

70. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69, wherein the attachment means comprises one or more loops.

71. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 70, wherein the or each loop is formed by doubling over the sleeve.

72. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69, wherein the attachment means comprises a harness, sling or other means for embracing a part of the patient.

73. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69, wherein the attachment means comprises a pad or flange for lying against part of the patient's body.

74. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 73, wherein the pad or flange can be adhered or sutured to the patient's body.

75. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69, wherein an opening is capable of permitting the tube to pass through the wall of the sleeve.

76. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69, wherein the sleeve wall is a mesh, grid, net or web.

77. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69, wherein the sleeve is of filamentary construction.

78. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69, wherein the sleeve is a spirally woven tube.

79. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69, wherein said tube is a catheter.

80. (Previously presented) A fastener according to claim 69 wherein the tubular sleeve has a collar at at least one end of the sleeve, the collar being operable to vary the length of the sleeve.